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Diary of Peter Parker

Peter Parker is dead. His mind trapped in my failing body - I should be ecstatic. But his memories, his feeli... are joined with mine, linked to this yo... different purpos... ing Spider-M... infamous g... beloved, th... Day by d... each as... to be...

FINAL

DAILY BUGLE

NEW YORK'S FINEST DAILY NEWSPAPER

INSIDE: MONICA RAMBEAU LIGHTS UP THE GULF; HAWKEY... HELPS HURRICANE VICTIMS; SPIDER-MAN'S NEW LOOK...

DOC OCK DEAD

SPIDER-MAN'S NEMESIS PASSED AWAY AFTER ESCAPING FROM PRISON IN A FINAL ATTEMPT TO DESTROY THE WEB-SLINGING HERO. WITH ONE OF THE WORLD'S GREATEST THREATS GONE, WILL NEW YORK BE SAFER, OR WILL A NEW VILLAIN RISE UP TO TAKE DOC OCK'S PLACE?

DAREDEVIL AND MURDOCK RESURFACE

In yet another coincidence, Daredevil reappeared just as Matt Murdock met with his estranged partner, Foggy Nelson. The meeting comes on the heels of Nelson's secret meeting with A.D.A. Kirsten McDuffie. Ms. McDuffie was thought to be dating Murdock but has not been seen with him since allegedly informing her superiors that Daredevil may be unstable.

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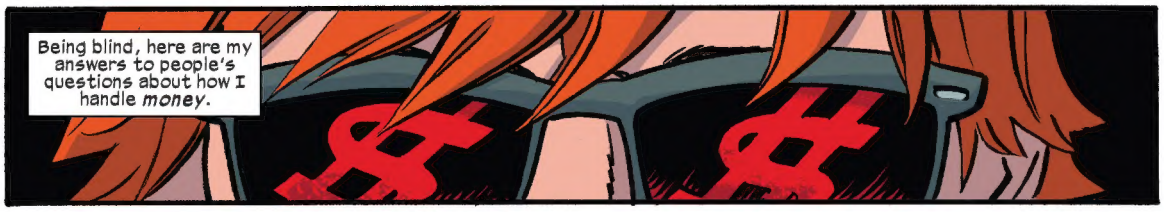
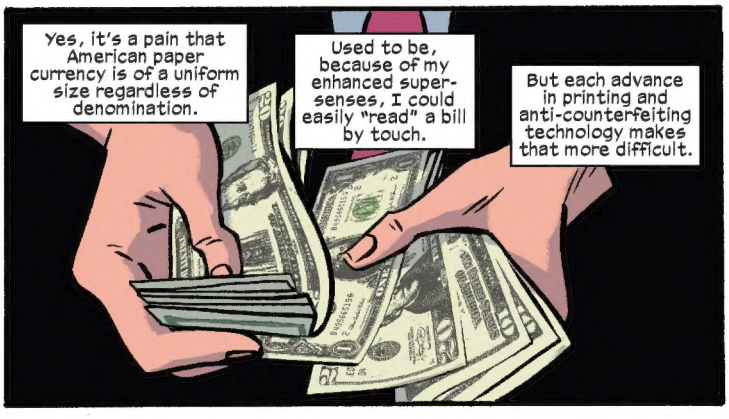
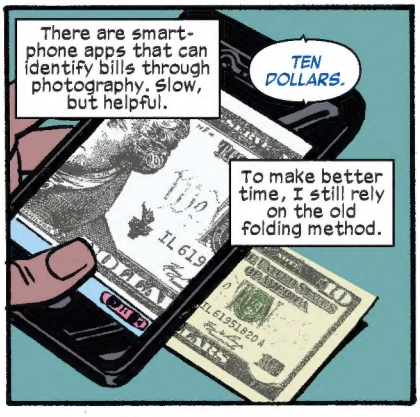

Being blind, here are my answers to people's questions about how I handle *money*.


Yes, it's a pain that American paper currency is of a uniform size regardless of denomination.
Used to be, because of my enhanced super-senses, I could easily "read" a bill by touch.
But each advance in printing and anti-counterfeiting technology makes that more difficult.


There are smart-phone apps that can identify bills through photography. Slow, but helpful.
TEN DOLLARS.
To make better time, I still rely on the old folding method.

Ones flat...

...fins folded crosswise...

...sawbucks lengthwise...

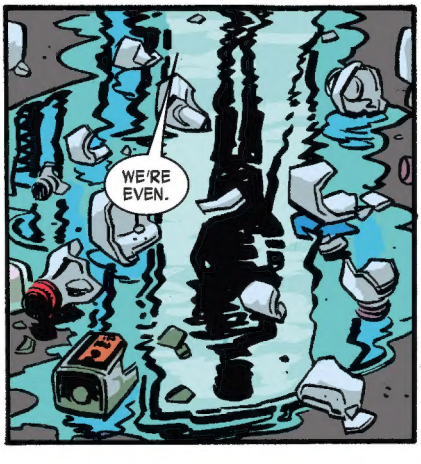
...twenties quartered.

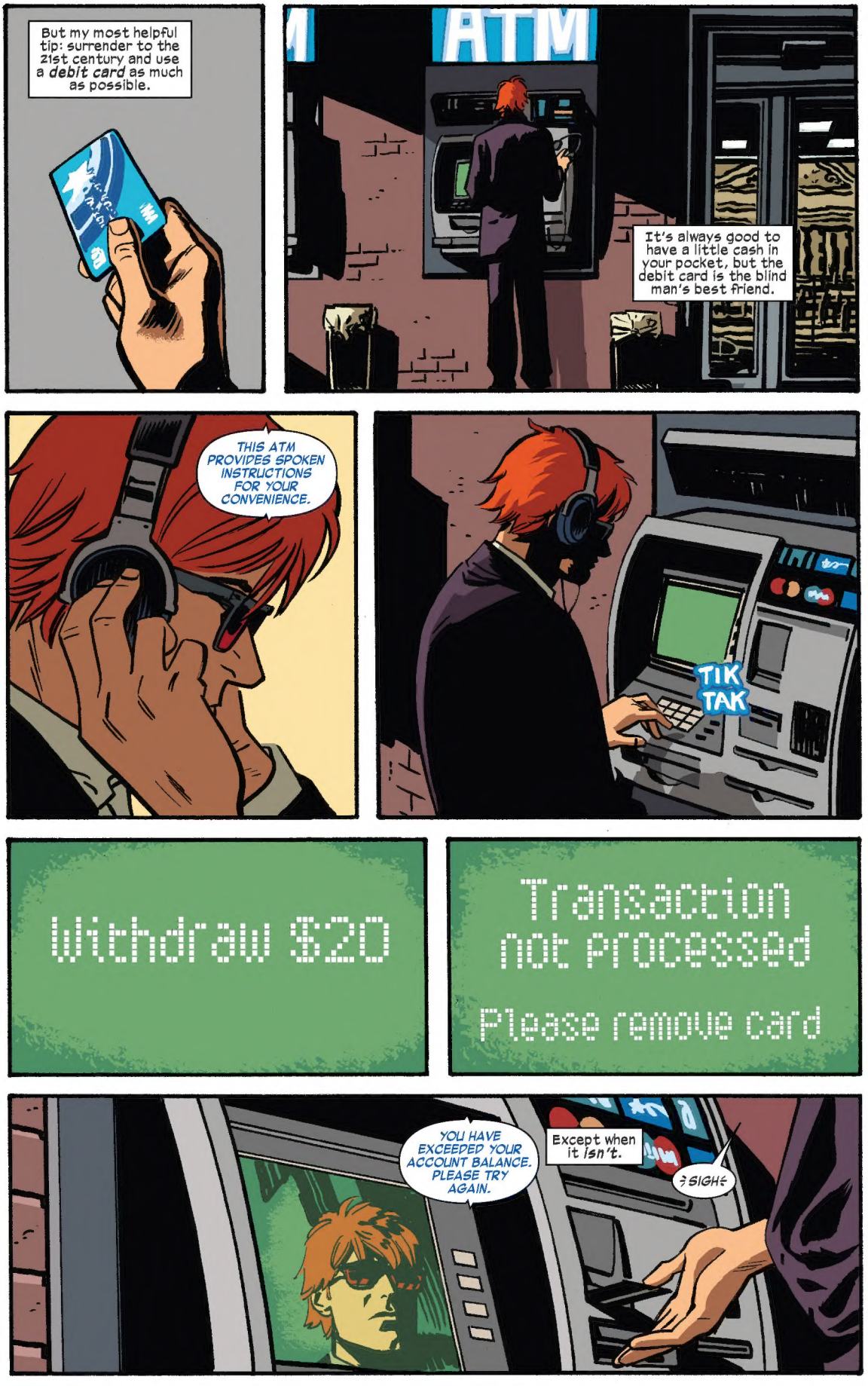
You have to trust cashiers not to shortchange you...
...AND TEN MAKES A HUNDRED.

...especially on *purpose*.
ARE YOU SURE?

YOU CALLIN' ME A *CROOK*?

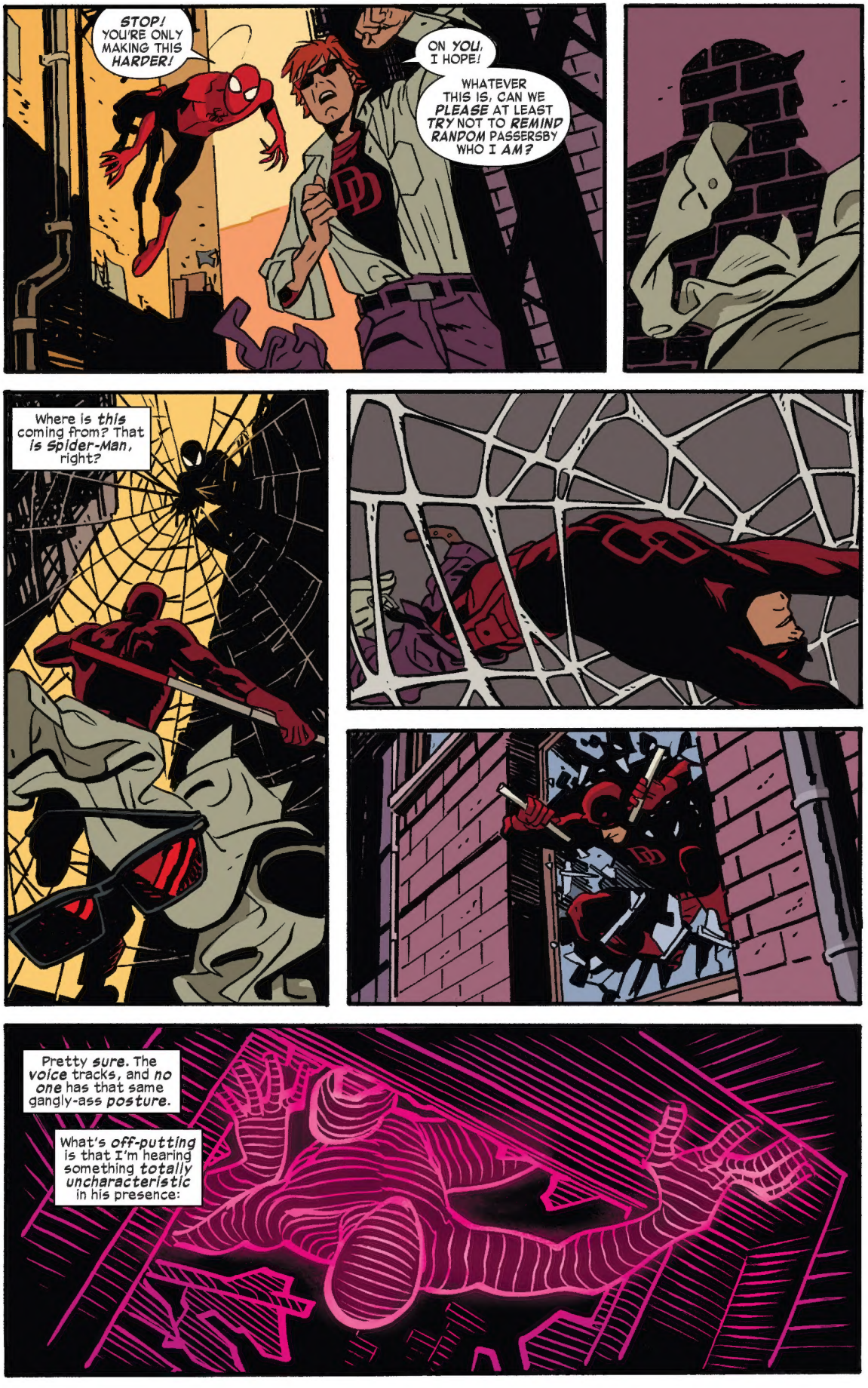
NO, NO, NO.
HEY!
Tink

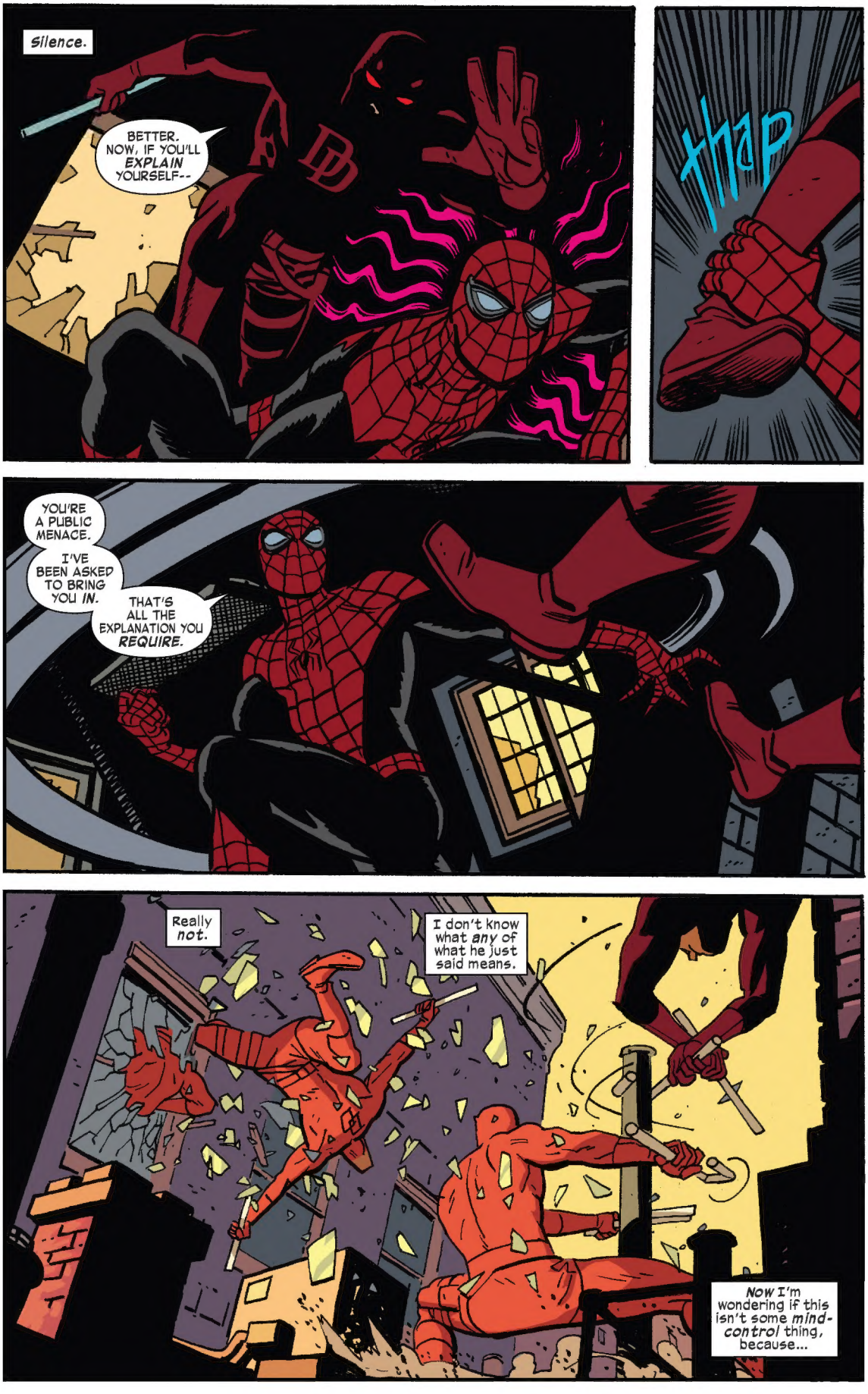

WE'RE EVEN.


But my most helpful tip: surrender to the 21st century and use a debit card as much as possible.
ATM
It's always good to have a little cash in your pocket, but the debit card is the blind man's best friend.
THIS ATM PROVIDES SPOKEN INSTRUCTIONS FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE.
TIK
TAK
Withdraw $20
Transaction not processed
Please remove card
YOU HAVE EXCEEDED YOUR ACCOUNT BALANCE. PLEASE TRY AGAIN.
Except when it isn't.
SIGH

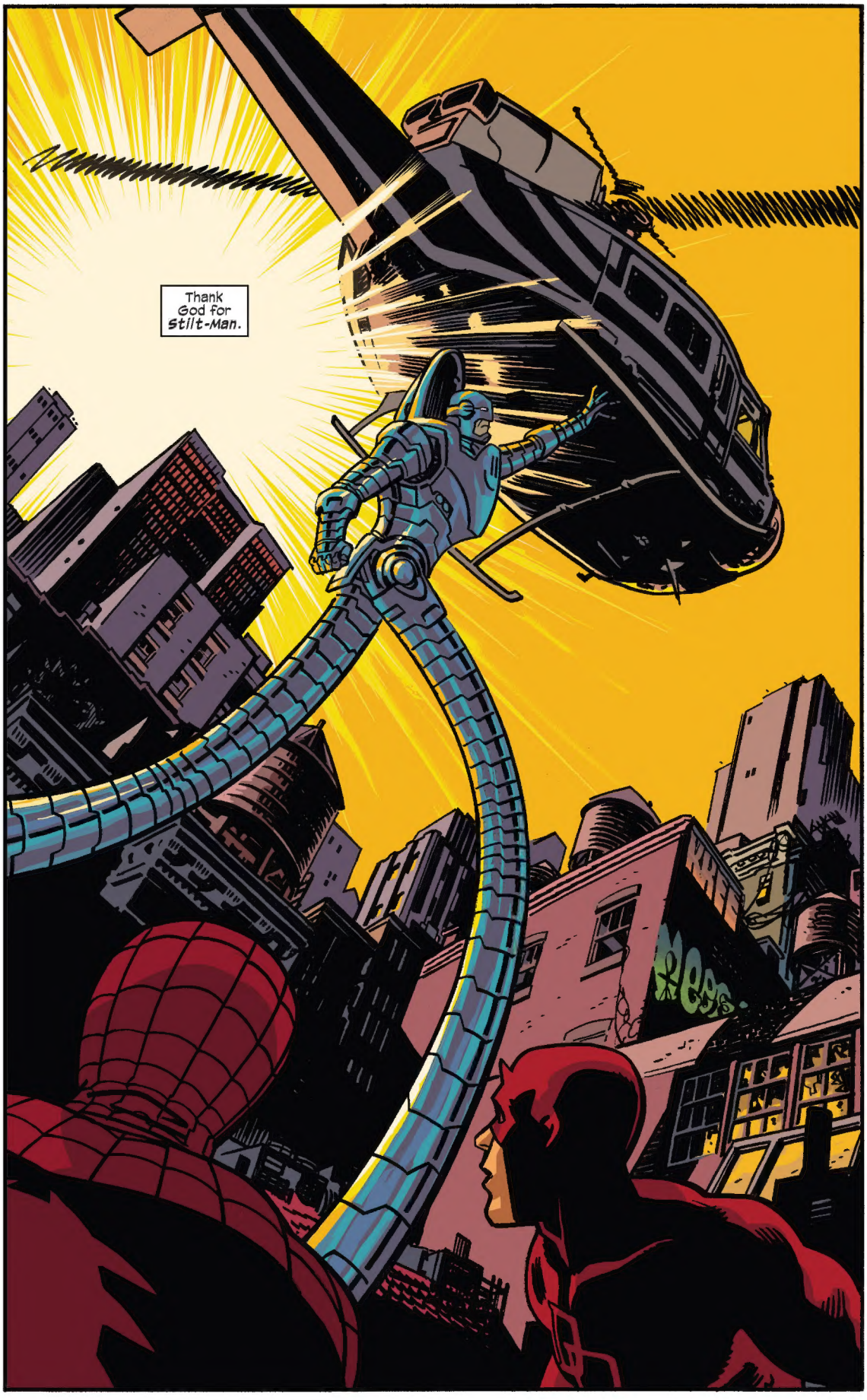
It's official: I'm broke. Cash-poor and *unemployed*.
The law firm of Matt Murdock and Franklin "Foggy" Nelson has *disbanded*--at first because Foggy mistakenly thought I'd been *lying* to him--
--then because I stormed out *angry*.
I'm not *destitute*-- I own my townhouse, I have no debt--
--and the celebrity crimefighter with the worst-kept secret identity can always find enough largesse to keep a body fed.
EAT, MR. DAREDEVIL!
HOW YOU LIKE THE PASTA, EH?
BEL*LISS*IMO, LUIGI, AS ALWAYS! BUT YOU *"UNDERSTAND"* I AM *NOT* DAREDEVIL, YES? I *MUST* PAY.
SI, SIGNORE! I *"UNDERSTAND"*! STILL, I CANNOT ACCEPT PAYMENT FOR SUCH A HUMBLE MEAL FROM A MAN WHO HAS DONE SO MUCH FOR NEW YORK!
FORMAGGIO!
FORMAGGIO.

Nonetheless, I'm down to my last twenty, so I should think very carefully about how I want to spend it.
DAREDEVIL!
Perhaps on some bug spray.
SPIDER-MAN?
HEY, WE'VE HAD THIS TALK! COOL IT ON THE PUBLIC OUTING THING--
SURRENDER OR PREPARE FOR BATTLE!
WAY
"SURRENDER"? I'M NOT--
THEN THE DIE IS CAST!
THWIP THWIP
HEY!
HEY!

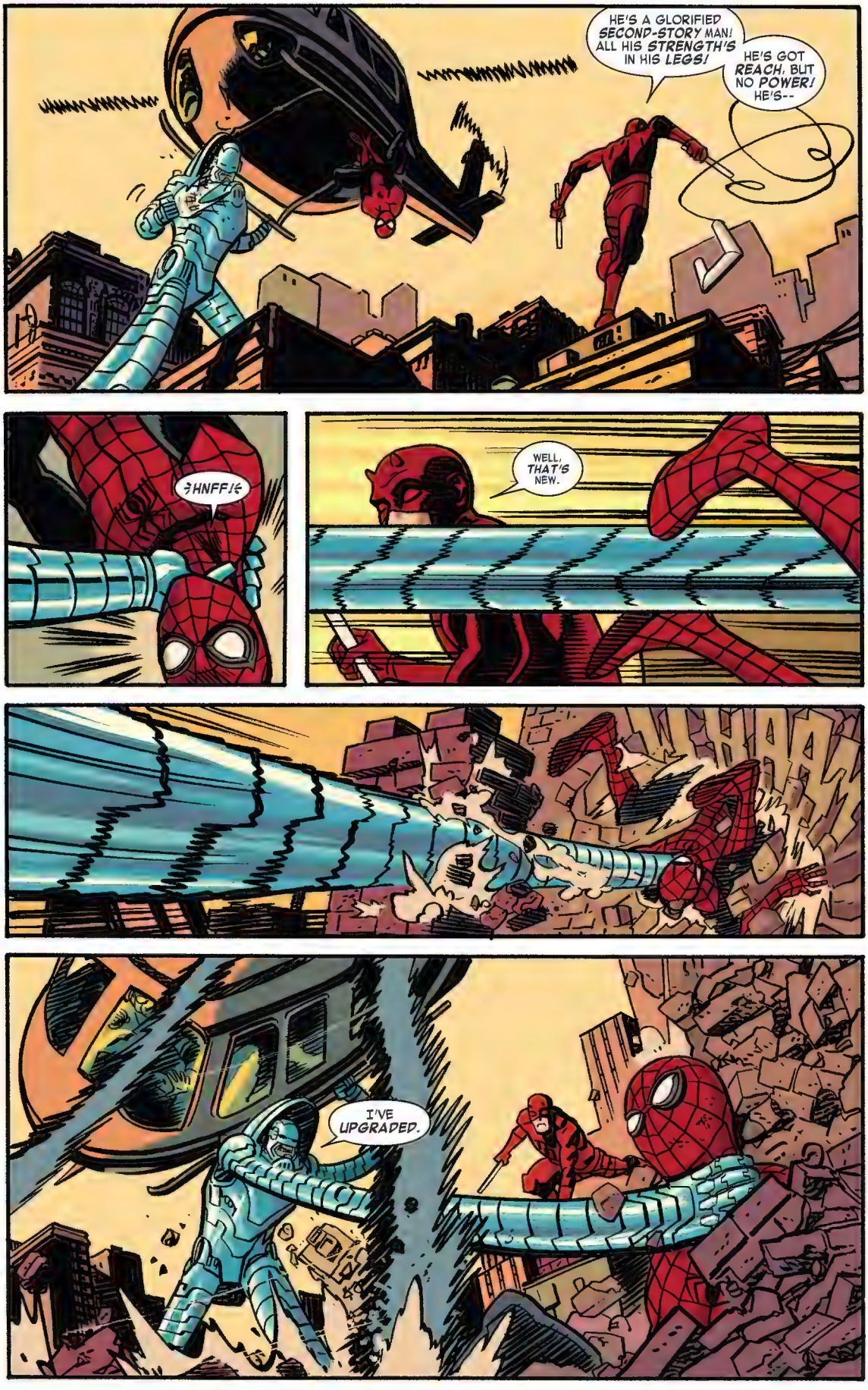

STOP! YOU'RE ONLY MAKING THIS HARDER!
ON YOU, I HOPE!
WHATEVER THIS IS, CAN WE PLEASE AT LEAST TRY NOT TO REMIND RANDOM PASSERSBY WHO I AM?
Where is this coming from? That is Spider-Man, right?
Pretty sure. The voice tracks, and no one has that same gangly-ass posture.
What's off-putting is that I'm hearing something totally uncharacteristic in his presence:


Silence.
BETTER. NOW, IF YOU'LL EXPLAIN YOURSELF--
thap
YOU'RE A PUBLIC MENACE.
I'VE BEEN ASKED TO BRING YOU IN.
THAT'S ALL THE EXPLANATION YOU REQUIRE.
Really not.
I don't know what any of what he just said means.
NOW I'm wondering if this isn't some mind-control thing, because...

...*"THE DIE IS CAST"*? WHO TALKS LIKE *THAT*? WHERE DID THE FUNNY GO?
I...
THWIP THWIP
...WHAT, HARD OF HEARING, *TOO*? I'M *FULLA* WISECRACKS, HORNEDHEAD!
"HORNHEAD"! IT'S *"HORN--"*
Okay. It's his *heartbeat*, his *scent*, his *footfall*. Legit.
Unless he's running some *elaborate prank*, Spider-Man is forcing a *fight*.
So I'm about to have to *throw down* with (sadly) the one Avenger I'm *closest* to--
--unless-- *unless*--
--I can *save* this friendship with a magic combination of *four words* that have never, *ever* been spoken in *any language* in this order before:


Thank God for Stilt-Man.

Paf
HE'S REACHING FOR THAT 'COPTER! LET'S GO!
STILT? MAN?
WHAT IS WRONG WITH YOU? COME ON!
Skree
WHAT THE HELL--?
OH, MY GOD! DID WE HIT SOMETHING? WHAT'S HAPPENING?
THE DIE IS CAST!
THIS IS A MIDAIR BOND HEIST, WALTER DEVONSHIRE!
HAND OVER THE BRIEFCASE OR I'LL HURL THIS BIRD TO THE GROUND--!
GNNNGH!
THWIP
HE'S BLUFFING, GENTLEMEN!


HE'S A GLORIFIED SECOND-STORY MAN! ALL HIS STRENGTH'S IN HIS LEGS!
HE'S GOT REACH, BUT NO POWER! HE'S--
HNFF!
WELL, THAT'S NEW.
HAA!
I'VE UPGRADED.

I'LL SAY.
NET!

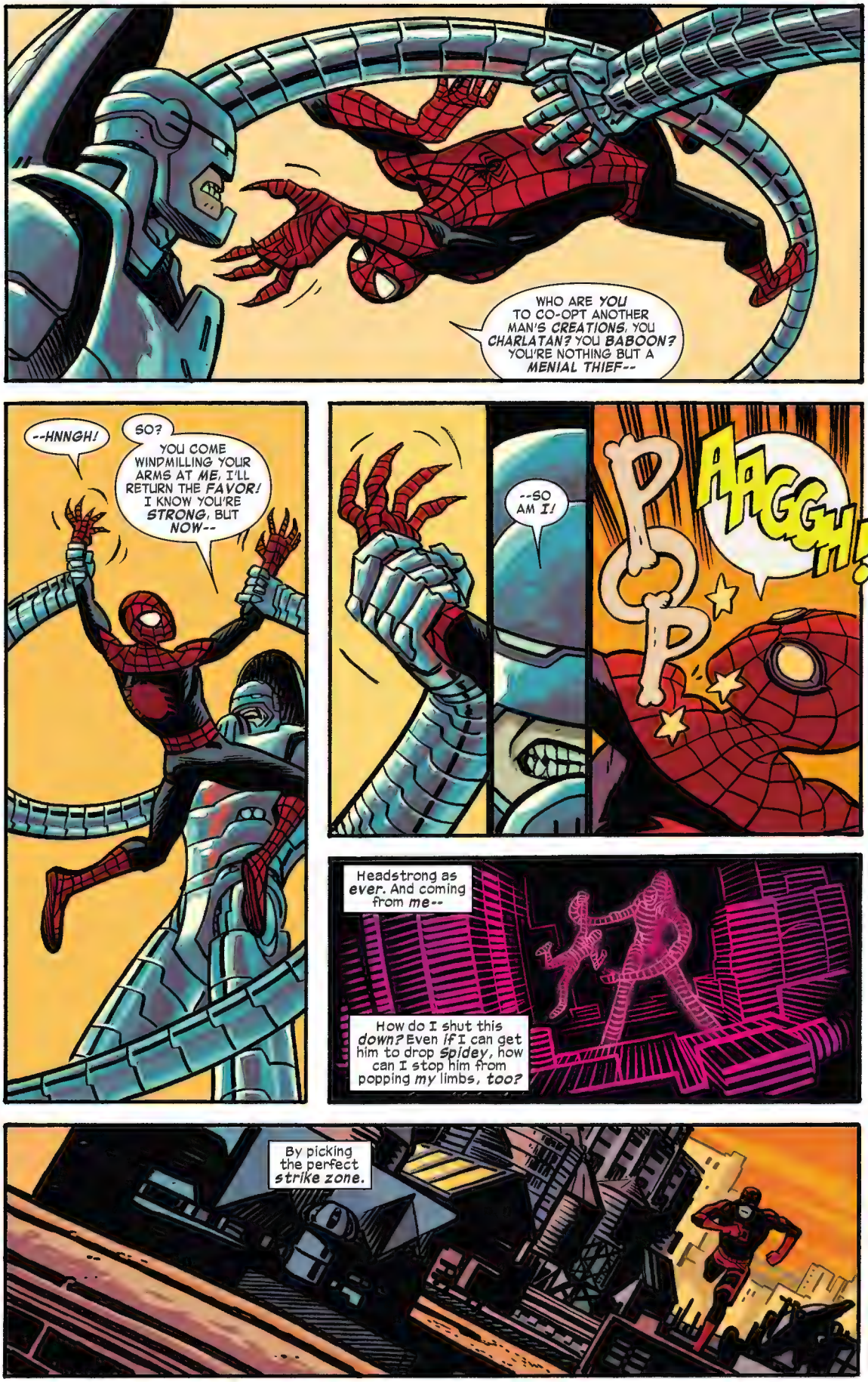
NET!
Spontaneous acid test, Spidey: once and for all, are you *friend* or *foe?*

WHAAM!
SPIDEY! NET! NET!

NET!

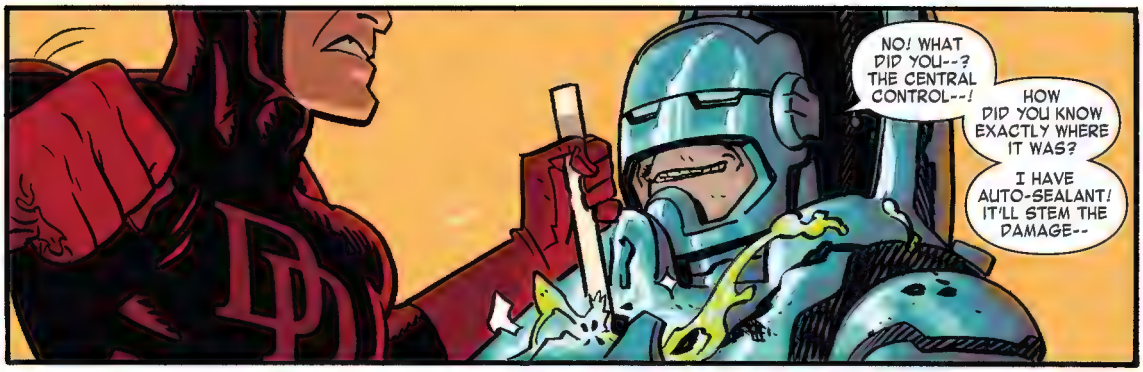
Whew.
Thank you.

WAIT, WAIT. "I'VE BEEN ASKED TO BRING YOU IN." NOT BY THE D.A.'S OFFICE...?
ASSISTANT D.A. McDUF--
OKAY, NOW YOU MAKE SENSE. I AM HAPPY TO EXPLAIN ONCE WE DEAL WITH TALL BOY.
THE ONLY ENEMY I HAVE WHO'D BUILD A TEN MILLION DOLLAR SUIT TO STEAL A HALF-MILLION IN BONDS.
...
HE DIDN'T BUILD THIS. NOT THE UPGRADE. I RECOGNIZE THE CRAFTSMANSHIP.
HE REPURPOSED SOME OF M--
--SOME OF DR. OCTOPUS'S OLD ARMS INTO HIS HYDRAULICS.
DOC OCK? THAT TUB OF LARD?
WHY ARE YOU GRINDING YOUR TEETH?
I WAS JUST GOING TO SAY, "HE'S NOT BEHIND THIS, IS HE?"
HARDLY.

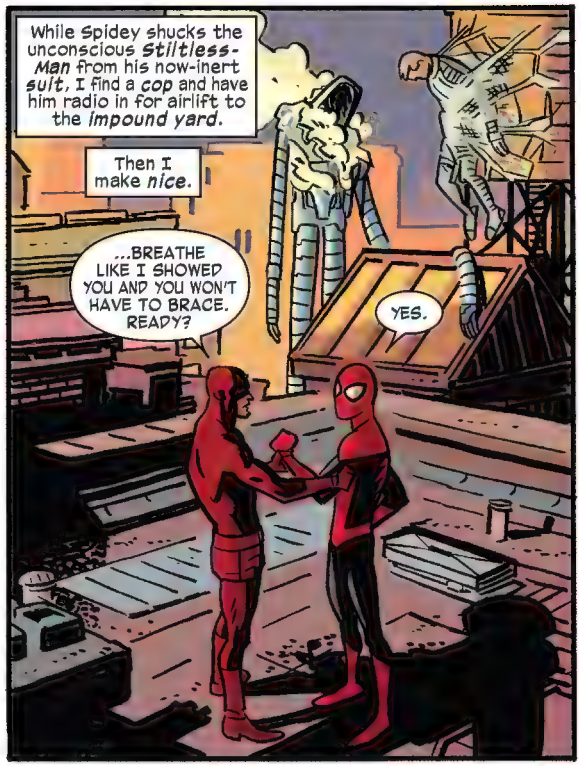

WHO ARE YOU TO CO-OPT ANOTHER MAN'S CREATIONS, YOU CHARLATAN? YOU BABOON? YOU'RE NOTHING BUT A MENIAL THIEF--
--HNNGH!
SO? YOU COME WINDMILLING YOUR ARMS AT ME, I'LL RETURN THE FAVOR! I KNOW YOU'RE STRONG, BUT NOW--
--SO AM I!
POP
AAGGH!
Headstrong as ever. And coming from me--
How do I shut this down? Even if I can get him to drop Spidey, how can I stop him from popping my limbs, too?
By picking the perfect strike zone.

Concentrate, Matt.
HONK!
HONK!
SHK
SKREE
VEEECH!
SkshVEEEE
Focus.
WEEOOWEE
BRANG
CLAN
Find your target.
CHWHAM
CLEAR OF THE CLOSING DOORS
chkt
chk
WEEOO WEE
SkshVEEEEEEHR
HONK!
WALKIN' HERE!
Clik
SkshVEEEEE

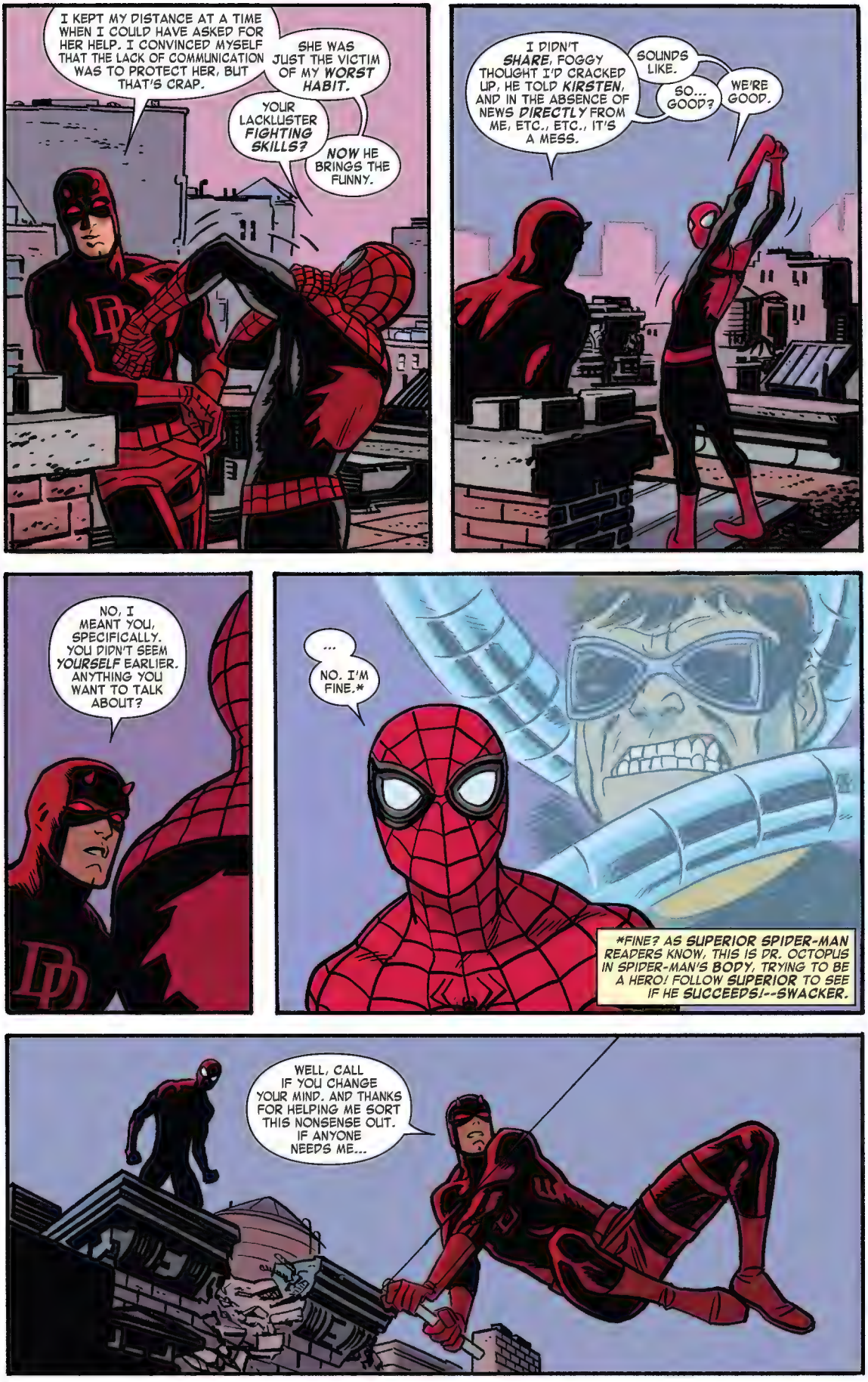
sks
VRRREEZAAAKK!


NO! WHAT DID YOU--? THE CENTRAL CONTROL--!
HOW DID YOU KNOW EXACTLY WHERE IT WAS?
I HAVE AUTO-SEALANT! IT'LL STEM THE DAMAGE--

TOO LATE.
KRSSH


While Spidey shucks the unconscious *Stiltless-Man* from his now-inert *suit*, I find a *cop* and have him radio in for airlift to the *impound yard*.
Then I make *nice*.
...BREATHE LIKE I SHOWED YOU AND YOU WON'T HAVE TO BRACE. READY?
YES.

POP
}GNNGH!{
GO EASY FOR A FEW DAYS. ALSO, I'M *NOT* A WANTED MAN. NOR AM I A MENTALLY UNSTABLE *THREAT*.
KIRSTEN'S MY...WELL...WE'RE *CLOSE*. YOU JUST GOT DRAWN INTO A *THING* BETWEEN US.


I KEPT MY DISTANCE AT A TIME WHEN I COULD HAVE ASKED FOR HER HELP. I CONVINCED MYSELF THAT THE LACK OF COMMUNICATION WAS TO PROTECT HER, BUT THAT'S CRAP.
SHE WAS JUST THE VICTIM OF MY *WORST HABIT.*
YOUR LACKLUSTER *FIGHTING SKILLS?*
NOW HE BRINGS THE FUNNY.
I DIDN'T *SHARE*, FOGGY THOUGHT I'D CRACKED UP, HE TOLD *KIRSTEN*, AND IN THE ABSENCE OF NEWS *DIRECTLY* FROM ME, ETC., ETC., IT'S A MESS.
SOUNDS LIKE.
SO... GOOD?
WE'RE GOOD.
NO, I MEANT YOU, SPECIFICALLY. YOU DIDN'T SEEM *YOURSELF* EARLIER. ANYTHING YOU WANT TO TALK ABOUT?
...
NO. I'M FINE.*
*FINE? AS SUPERIOR SPIDER-MAN READERS KNOW, THIS IS DR. OCTOPUS IN SPIDER-MAN'S BODY, TRYING TO BE A HERO! FOLLOW SUPERIOR TO SEE IF HE SUCCEEDS!--SWACKER.
WELL, CALL IF YOU CHANGE YOUR MIND. AND THANKS FOR HELPING ME SORT THIS NONSENSE OUT. IF ANYONE NEEDS ME...

"...I NEED TO GO INVEST MY LAST TWENTY DOLLARS IN AN APOLOGY."
Rose's FLORIST

MA & PA BAKERY · 26
BAKERY
COOKIES
CAKES
CROISSANTS
BAGUETTES

THAT BAKERY OVER ON CANAL. YOU REMEMBERED THEIR GREATEST CREATION.

THE BACON AND LIMBURGER CHEESECAKE. IT'S MY FAVORITE.
OF COURSE IT IS. THEY CALL IT "THE FOGGY."
I FIGURE YOU CAN'T STOP ME FROM TALKING WHILE YOU'RE HOOVERING YOUR FOOD, SO LET ME EXPLAIN, WITHOUT INTERRUPTION, WHAT I'VE COME TO DECIDE IS THE ROOT OF OUR CONFLICT:

EVEN WHEN I WAS FIRST BLINDED, I NEVER TOLD ANYONE ABOUT MY RADAR OR MY HYPERSENSES. NOT EVEN MY DAD. I ENJOYED HAVING A BIG SECRET.
WHEN PEOPLE MAKE YOU FEEL LIKE YOU'RE WEAK AND HELPLESS, IT'S EMPOWERING TO KNOW SOMETHING THEY DON'T. AND, BOY, DID I NEED EMPOWERING.
OM NOM NOM

BACK THEN.
BACK THEN.

BUT HERE'S THE TRUTH: LEARNED BEHAVIORS DIE HARD.
THEY BECOME A COMFORT ZONE.
SO EVEN THOUGH I GREW OLDER, AND STRONGER, I SOMEHOW NEVER LET GO OF THAT NEED FOR THE POWER OF SECRECY.
AND ALONG THE WAY, IT WENT FROM SURVIVAL SKILL TO HABIT TO...TO...
EMOTIONAL ADDICTION.
I CAN SEE THAT. YOU DO LOVE COMING TO THE TABLE WITH AN ACE UP YOUR SLEEVE. NO WONDER YOU TOOK TO LAW.
"I ALWAYS FELT THAT YOU SHOULD HAVE BEEN A MAGICIAN. NOW I KNOW WHY."
I WANT SECRECY TO STOP BEING MY DEFAULT SETTING, ESPECIALLY AROUND MY BEST FRIEND. WILL YOU HELP ME?
IF THERE'S TIME.
CAN WE START BY RESTORING THE PARTNERSHIP, FRANKLIN NELSON?

SURE THI--
WAIT.
GO BACK TO THE PREVIOUS QUESTION. WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "IF THERE'S TIME"?
And why is your heartbeat soaring?
AND WHY IS YOUR HEARTBEAT SOARING?
MATTY, I WASN'T FAIR TO YOU, EITHER.
I THINK THE REASON I WAS SO ANGRY THAT YOU MIGHT NOT BE DEALING WITH YOUR PROBLEMS HONESTLY AND WITH COURAGE IS BECAUSE I...
...I NEED THAT FROM YOU RIGHT NOW.
I NEED YOU TO BE THE ONE WHO CAN TEACH ME HOW TO DO ALL THAT.
FOGGY, WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, PLEASE?
I'VE...BEEN SICK, MATTY. WHILE YOU'VE BEEN RUNNING AROUND, I'VE BEEN RUNNING TO THE DOCTORS. AND THEY'RE PRETTY SURE--
OF WHAT?
--THEY'RE RUNNING TESTS RIGHT NOW--
FOR WHAT, FOGGY?
...
CANCER.
NEXT: MEN WITHOUT FEAR

LETTERS WITHOUT FEAR

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NEXT ISSUE

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AVENGING SPIDER-MAN #16

CAPTAIN MARVEL #9

SUPERIOR SPIDER-MAN #1